NEC Schemes in Ninth Plan

844. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two schemes namely construction of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science and Survey of Bridge at Lohit and Khabolu River, connecting Lakhimpur and Majuli, were included in the Ninth Five Year Plan of North-Eastern Council;

(b) if so, the total outlays, year-wise amount sanctioned, amount utilised and progress made so far; and

(c) the future provisions made for these Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The total 9th Plan outlay for Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science was Rs. 50 lakhs. Rs. 40 lakhs has been released during 1997-98. No progress report has been received from the State Government as regards this project.

The total outlay in the 9th Plan period for survey of bridge across Lohit and Khabolu rivers is Rs. 1 crore. Rs. 30 lakhs has been released so far. As on September 1999, an amount of Rs.8.24 lakhs has been incurred. 50 per cent of the sub-soil investigation works has been completed.

(c) No future provisions has been made for the Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science during 1999-2000 in the absence of report of utilisation of funds. Provisions of Rs. 50 lakhs has been kept during 1999-2000 for the survey and investigation of the bridge across Lohit and Khabolu rivers.

Custodial Deaths in Delhi

845. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of custodial deaths with the Delhi Police is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the number of custodial deaths in various police stations in Delhi during the last three years;

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(c) whether the Delhi Police has tried to declare such custodial deaths as natural and denied any responsibility; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the role of Delhi Police in custodial deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of persons who died during the last three years, year-wise, while in the custody of police was as follows:

Year	Number
1997	07
1998	02
1999 (upto 30.11.99)	02

These included four cases of suicide and one case in which the report of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate concerned has not been received.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The measures taken to prevent incidents of custodial deaths include, providing an opportunity to persons under custody to inform their friends, relatives or other known persons; surprise visits by senior police officers to check violation of human rights and misbehaviour with women; periodical inspection of police stations and other police establishments by a Central Checking Team of Delhi Police to prevent cases of illegal detention, illegal use of handcuffs, etc.; and strict disciplinary action against officials found involved using third degree methods against persons under custody.

Further, a statutory inquest in custodial death cases is conducted by the SDM under section 176 Cr. PC and post mortem is also conducted by a panel of doctors. Incidents in which police officers are found involved in custodial deaths, are immediately registered and entrusted for investigation to an independent agency.

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